(b) 15 applications were received for grant of COB licences for slitting|confectioning of photo-sensitized goods. Out of these, three DGTD registered units have been granted COB licences so far.

(c) No, Sir.

Power losses

1901. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of mounting power losses in the country and if so, what is Statewise position in this regard indicating accumulated losses so far;

(b) what are transmission and distribution losses, Statewise for the last three years, yearwise; and

(c) what is damage rate of power and distribution transformers Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The transmission and distribution losses which were 21.47 per cent during the year 1984-85 have risen slightly to 21.50 per cent during the year 1986-87. A statement indicating the State-wise percentage of transission and distribution losses during the years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 is given in the enclosed Statement. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 86].

(c) There are only stray cases of failure of power transformers. In respect of distribution transformers, the failure rate varies from 6 per cent to 23 per cent.

Setting up of petroleum refinery in Gujarat

1902. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up one more petrochemical complex|petroleum refinery in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof as regards commencement of work, estimated investment, estimated time for completion of the work, location of the complex, estimated capacity of the project, employment potential etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The question of setting up of an additional refinery capacity in Gujarat was considered taking into account the various techno-economic factors like demand|supply balance, availability of crude oil etc. There is however no justifiction at present for the setting up of a new refinery in Gujarat. However the capacity of the Koyali refinery is being increased from 7.53 million tonnes per annum to 9.5 million tonnes per annum and this refinery has already achieved the increased capacity of 8.1 million tonnes per annum.

As far as the petrochemical complex is concerned, it has been decided to set up one petrochemical cracker at Hazira in Gujarat with a capacity of 3,20,000 tpa of Ethylene. The estimated cost of this is around Rs 750 crores providing employment to 455 persons. Normally, it takes a period of 3 to 4 years for completion of such a big project.

Vacant posts of Chief Executives in the Public Sector

1903. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 70 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th April, 1987 and state:

(a) what is the number of public sector units of his Ministry where posts of Chief Executives are still lying vacant;

(b) what are the reasons for not filling up these posts so far; and

(c) by when the Chief Executives of these units are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) A statement is enclosed. [*See* below].

(b) and (c) The reasons for above positions being vacant include posts being kept in abeyance due to review of the performance, limited operations of the Company, delay in joining by selected candidate etc. Appointments in Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. and Bengal Immunity Ltd. are likely to be made shortly. In respect of remaining companies arrangements have been made to ensure that day to day functioning do not suffer.

Statement

Out of fifteen vacant posts mentioned in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 70 answered on 20-4-1987, nine posts have since been filled up. The remaining six enterprises where posts of Chief Executives are still vacant are as follows:

1. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.
2. Scooters India Ltd.
3. Engineering Projects India Ltd.
4. Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd.
5. Bengal Immunity Ltd.
6. Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Canadian assistance in the field of telecommunications

1904. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canadian assistance has been sought in the field of telecommunications; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding between M/s. Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd., Madras and M/s. Andover of Canada for manufacture of a product "Communicator" has been signed.

Amendment of the law relating to telephone tapping

1905. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Karnataka case of telephone tapping came to light;

(b) by when Government propose to bring forward amendment of the law on the subject, as earlier promised in Parliament; and

(c) what are the outlines of the proposed amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The matter came to the notice of Government when a report in this regard appeared on 10-7-1988 in the Indian Express.

(b) and (c) The provisions of Indian Telegraph Act 1885 in this regard are being reviewed. No proposals have yet been finalised.

Liquidation of dues against state electricity boards

1906. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested that an action plan may be prepared and carried out to liquidate the outstanding dues of National Thermal Power Corporation towards the State Electricity Boards; and